

TO: Public Health Committee  
FROM: Dee Klingaman  
American Heart Association Volunteer  
Oxford, Connecticut  
SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1339 – An Act Concerning Automatic External Defibrillators  
DATE: March 5, 2007

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My name is Dee Klingaman and I am a resident in the town of Oxford, CT. Not everyone knows this, but heart disease is the number cause of death for both men and women in Connecticut it claims nearly **11,000 CT residents' lives annually.**

I am urging you to support the "**Senate Bill 1339 - AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS**" so that we can take measures to reduce the number of lives lost and provide more Connecticut residents with an opportunity to survive. AEDs placed in public buildings and schools can save lives by providing a second chance to those requiring emergency care.

For the last two years, I have been working to help women of the Valley community learn of the risks and symptoms of heart disease through the American Heart Association and the AHA Go Red for Women campaign. By sharing my personal experiences to help others understand the true cost of heart disease and also to understand that there are many things that can be done to prevent cardiac deaths and to help postpone the onset of heart disease.

My family learned first hand the cost of premature heart disease within our family when we lost our mother to a stroke and then our brother to a heart attack. Because of my age, BP, weight, cholesterol, non-smoking and physical condition I was not considered the profile for someone to have a heart attack. Since I found herself a heart attack survivor nearly two years ago, I actively work to help educate and motivate women and men to learn about and to fight heart disease. I received the gift of life when I had two stents placed in my heart. I understand that the stents would not have been possible without the forward thinking of those who took action that supported funding and research. Not everyone gets a second chance.

Today, I am asking you to take action and provide a second chance to CT residents by providing for AEDs in schools and public buildings. AEDs in schools and public buildings will help save lives. We need your help.

Sincerely,

Dee Klingaman